

Issue 11 May 25, 2007

Inside this Issue:

Navy Nurse Corps Celebrates 99th Birthday 2

New Data Technology Streamlines Patient Care Process During Cobra Gold 2007 2

Recon Corpsman Recognized for Valor 3

Hospital Celebrates Nurses, Presents Junior Excellence Award 4

NBHC Nurse Corps Officer Receives USO Award 5

Items of Interest:

2007 NEHC Conference Presentations Available Online. Presentations from the 46th Navy Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine Conference are now available online at the NEHC website. Many of presentations are available as downloadable files, including Brigadier General Kates' keynote presentation delivered during the conference opening ceremony. Visit the NEHC website at http://www.nehc.med.navy.mil/07_Presentations.htm for a complete listing of all presentations available for viewing.

Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

A Public Affairs Publication of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Multilateral Medical Effort Eases Pain of Locals During Cobra Gold

By Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks, Marine Forces Pacific (FWD)

PRACHUAP PROVINCE, Thailand - Thai, U.S., Japanese and Singaporean doctors shared resources to provide medical assistance to the residents of Prachuap at the Udomraj Pakdee School May 11, as part of exercise Cobra Gold 2007, a joint multilateral exercise focusing on enhancing security in the Southeast Region as well as providing humanitarian/civic assistance projects.

This humanitarian assistance project is one of 11 being conducted during the exercise.

With medical check sheets in hand, each patient visited different stations for a full medical exam, including optometry, orthopedics, dental, physical therapy and a basic health care assessment.

"It's amazing what some of these people endure," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Kevin Ashcraft, with the Operation Hospital Support Unit, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Calif. "One man had a 10-year fracture that never properly healed and all he complained about was a little back pain caused by farm work. It puts things in perspective."



PRACHUAP PROVINCE, Thailand - Major Yasunori Mizuguchi, doctor, Japan Ground Self Defense Force, exams 12-year-old Mattaneya Tasanapardee, who was experiencing severe ear aches during the medical civil assistance program at the Udomraj Pakdee School May 11. *U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks*

(Continued on page 3)



INDIAN OCEAN - An aviation ordnanceman has his eyes examined by Cmdr. Michael McGinnis, the senior medical officer aboard nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) May 19. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Jake Berenguer*

Navy Nurse Corps Celebrates 99th Birthday

By Douglas H. Stutz, Naval Hospital
Bremerton Public Affairs

BREMERTON, Wash. - The U.S. Navy Nurse Corps commemorated its 99th anniversary on May 13, and Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) Sailors took the entire week leading up to it to recognize, render honor and pay tribute to the approximately 4,000 men and women of the Nurse Corps.

NHB honored its Nurse Corps staff with numerous events before May 13, culminating with a ceremony and cake cutting with the most senior and junior Nurse Corps officers doing the honors on NHB's quarterdeck.

The historical relevance and heart-felt commemoration of the event included sharing various birthday greetings sent by heads of the Medical Service Corps and

Medical Corps, as well as the official message by Vice Adm. D.C. Arthur, Navy Surgeon General.

"We are proud to serve with you," said Capt. Randall Kelley, NHB executive officer. "It's also no coincidence that in a recent survey conducted, it showed that nurses were looked upon as being ranked number one in terms of honesty and integrity. Navy Nurse Corps, we salute you!"

"You are the men and women who wear the cloth of our nation and have dedicated your care, expert clinical skills and leadership abilities to Navy medicine since the inauguration of your corps," sent Arthur in his regards, wishing to express his thanks and admiration. "Your versatility, enthusiasm, and passion have enabled Navy medicine to carry out our mission 'anywhere, anytime.'"

Rear Adm. M.H. Mittelman, Director Medical Service Corps, sent his regards and heartiest greetings to Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler, Chief of Staff and Director of Navy Nurse Corps. In his regards he said the members of the Nurse Corps should be proud of the outstanding contributions they have made in providing precision care to military personnel and their families.

Bruzek-Kohler had her own message to share with the Navy nurses.

"This is a very special week for our profession as we celebrate our Corps' 99th Anniversary on May 13, 2007, and National Nurses Week. As the twenty-first director of the Navy Nurse Corps, I want you to know how very proud I am of our

(Continued on page 4)

New Data Technology Streamlines Patient Care Process During Cobra Gold 2007

By Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks, Marine Forces Pacific (FWD)

PRACHUAP PROVINCE, Thailand - New technologies are being tested as part of Cobra Gold 2007, a multilateral combined exercise conducted by the Royal Thai Armed Forces, U.S. Armed Forces and Armed Forces of allied nations focusing on enhancing security in the Southeast Asian region and providing humanitarian/civic assistance.

At one medical assistance project at the Udomraj Pakdee School in Prachuap Province, a new technology transferring vital patient statistics is being put to the test.

A new system recently developed by Global Relief Technologies and now being tested is making pen and paper obsolete. The Broadband Global Area Network Inmarsat and the Tripod Data System, a mobile communication service that provides both voice and broadband data simultaneously through a single portable device on a global basis, enables deployed personnel to transmit vital data in a matter of seconds.

With this technology, the humanitarian assistance programs are facilitated and more patients cared for in less time, said Col. Stephen Maloney, deputy director, Humanitarian Civil Assistance Program.

"In fifteen seconds I was able to link up with the satellite, download new updated programs and transmit new data back to the rear," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class John Ladd, from the Operational Hospital Support Unit, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Calif.



PRACHUAP PROVINCE, Thailand -

The tripod data system personal digital assistant is used to collect a medical patient's examination information and wirelessly sends it to a database that will disseminate and store the information. *U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks*

The system is made up of a small lightweight satellite dish that can be placed anywhere and rugged personal data assistants loaded with the latest health information software. The satellites and the PDAs can operate up to eight hours, depending on their use, and the satellite dish powers up in about 15 seconds.

Doctors, working through translators, can get a basic health two-page questionnaire answered in a matter of seconds with a few clicks on the touch screen, according to Ladd. Some of the PDAs are equipped with translation software allowing the patients to answer questions in their native language.

"The doctors can treat a patient and, with a few clicks, the commanders at headquarters can view and analyze the information in a data bank," he added. "They can

(Continued on page 4)

Recon Corpsman Recognized for Valor

By Lance Cpl. Timothy M. Stewman,
13th Marine Expeditionary Unit

ABOARD THE USS BONHOMME RICHARD - In times of conflict, service members may be exposed to negativity and the very worst in people. Also in times of conflict, in the face of danger, a true American hero may be born.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Brian Thurmond, a special amphibious reconnaissance corpsman with recon platoon, Battalion Landing Team 3/1, was meritoriously promoted May 2 through the Navy Meritorious Combat Advancement Program for his actions while deployed to Iraq last year.

The program was created for commanders to nominate Navy personnel ranking E-1 through E-5 in recognition of extraordinary actions performed while engaged in, or in direct support of combat operations; much as a combat meritorious promotion is done for Marines.

During a Feb. 14, 2006 firefight, Thurmond rendered care to a wounded interpreter while under fire with no regard for his own safety. He continued to care for the wounded until the interpreter could be evacuated, recalls Gunnery Sgt. David Lind, Recon platoon sergeant.

"His conduct and efficiency in

times when he was needed the most was impressive," said Lind.

Thurmond, who has been a corpsman for 12 years, has been a special amphibious reconnaissance corpsman for five years.

"The training is very hard and long training. It usually takes around 18 months or longer to get through all the training," said Thurmond.

Training to become a SARC begins with Field Medical Service School followed by a Basic Reconnaissance Course, Marine Combatant Diver school and Airborne Basic school. Lastly corpsmen have to complete the Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsmen Course and the Special Operations Medicine Course to earn the job title of SARC.

"The training given in the courses makes it so that the corpsman in a platoon can perform all basic tasks just as the Marines would," said Thurmond.

Thurmond's actions and conduct while in Iraq did not go unnoticed. Lind and platoon commander Capt. Jason Armas felt Thurmond's actions should be formally recognized.

"We felt that Thurmond was more than deserving of being recognized for the outstanding service



ABOARD THE USS BONHOMME RICHARD - Hospital Corpsman Brian Thurmond (center), special amphibious reconnaissance corpsman with Battalion Landing Team 3/1 reconnaissance platoon awaits being pinned during his promotion ceremony May 2 on the Bonhomme Richard flight deck. Thurmond was meritoriously promoted after being nominated and selected through the Navy's Meritorious Combat Program. *U.S. Marine Corps photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Roddy D. Robinson*

member he is," said Lind. "He set the example."

The confident but humble "Devil Doc" credits his comrades for his success.

"I know that without the leadership and the fellow members of my platoon, I never would have made it this far," said Thurmond. "We put our lives on the line for each other and there's no greater group of guys to be doing it for."

Multilateral Medical continued...

(Continued from page 1)

The project involved a large number of military doctors and nurses from the Pacific partner nations who treated more than 400 patients in just a few hours.

"There is no doubt these people are doing great things here today," said Col. Stephen Maloney, deputy director, humanitarian/civic assistance projects. "We are absolutely out here to help the local community."

Maloney said this project, along with others conducted in the past weeks, is part of an overall theater security cooperation initiative. These projects are designed to foster ties between the Southeast Asian nations and prepare them for

real-world contingencies such as the December 2004 tsunami relief effort.

"We are helping to provide the essential military to military relationship development that we need in the region," he added.

The medical assistance here provided Pacific partner nations a chance to work together in an operational environment and help people in need.

"It feels great to help and learn from our partners and learn more about their cultures," said Singapore Army Master Sgt. Tan Shaoheng. "This operation has been well organized and the flow has been smooth. It is very well done."

The medical professionals did not just treat the patients' injuries,

they also collected valuable data that was sent to local health care facilities and referred the patients for follow-on health care.

"Sure, we can help them here and now. But, we also need to be concerned about the follow-on care," Maloney said. "The data collection is just as important as the medical care."

The sentiment among the medical professionals was of not doing enough. Despite the language barrier, those receiving treatment smiled and laughed alongside their caregivers who came from all corners of the Pacific.

"I think they appreciate our help," Shaoheng said. "They need medical attention and we are happy to provide it for them."

Hospital Celebrates Nurses, Presents Junior Excellence Award

By Jesse Leon Guerrero, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Public Affairs

AGANA HEIGHTS, Guam - Lt. Jacqueline Williams, of U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, has known she wanted to be a nurse since she was six years old. The Navy has helped her live that dream career for 22 years now and recognized her excellent service at an awards ceremony attended by friends and family May 11.

William's peers and supervisors at the hospital selected her from a field of eight total nominees as the winner of the Junior Nurse Corps Excellence Award. The nominees were recommended and judged on their clinical skills, leadership, qualities, community involvement, and professionalism.

"I am honored because I work with a stellar group of nurses that I have before me and that I work with everyday," Williams said, after accepting her award plaque at the command's quarterdeck from Capt. Robert Kellogg, commanding officer of the hospital.

Williams, who is the command's assistant department head for the internal medicine clinic, thanked both her civilian and Navy coworkers for making her job easier through their teamwork and support.

"It feels really good to be recognized," Williams said. "We do a lot of good things here. We work very, very hard."

Spending long but needed hours at work and wanting to set a great example for the command are just two of the things Williams said are important for staying productive.

"We're there with our patients 24/7, we take care of them, we know them, and we treat them like our family," said Williams. "And that's what nursing is all about."

Williams said she will miss all of her friends when she leaves the command in August to attend school in San Diego, where she will study to be an adult clinical nurse specialist.

"Lt. Williams is truly one of the best professionals I've ever worked with," said Lt. Cmdr. Tom Santa, chairman of the command's nursing middle managers council. "In every way she just exemplifies what the Navy Nurse Corps is all about, and she represents a very bright future that we have in the organization," Santa added.

Santa explained the ceremony was a culmination of National Nurses' Week as well as marking the 99th anniversary of the Navy Nurse Corps. Hospital staff celebrated these dates with several other activities to promote camaraderie and mentorship, such as a breakfast served by the senior nurses to the junior nurses May 9.

"Nurse Corps has a wonderful responsibility to train each other, to really make sure we pass on the torch for taking the best care of our patients," said Santa.

Nurse Corps Birthday continued...

(Continued from page 2)

Corps' commitment to deliver competent and compassionate nursing care to those deployed in harms way and to all entrusted to our care. Together, we demonstrate excellence and dedication to the Nursing profession in our practice as both military and civilian nurses through your progressive leadership, innovation, and clinical expertise, all in support of Navy medicine."

Bruzek-Kohler continued saying this year's theme was 'nursing: A profession and a passion.' Passion is what called nurses to the profession in the first place and pas-

sion is what they said makes their work meaningful and rewarding. As Navy nurses, their passion for their profession reflects their unique military heritage.

"In 2006, our nurses served with pride in Navy and Marine Corps operational units around the globe: Kuwait, Iraq, Djibouti, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Qatar, Canada, Germany, Honduras, Peru, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, Thailand, South Korea, East and West Timor, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Republic of Georgia and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. At home and abroad, the camaraderie, leadership, professionalism and passion for excellence are what define Navy nursing," Bruzek-Kohler said.

Data Tech continued...

(Continued from page 2)

make adjustments and ensure the most up to date care is given to the patients."

During this medical assistance project, more than 400 patients were assisted. With only nine satellite dishes and 20 PDAs, all patient information was categorized and organized and delivered to the local health care facilities before they left

the area.

Along with strategic data transmission, the system ensures continuity of care.

"The electronic forms ensure the right treatments and the right medication is given to the patients," said Ladd. "With pen and paper a combination of bad hand writing or miscommunication can be hazardous to the patient."

Should a step in the treatment

process be overlooked, the health care software sends a warning to the PDA ensuring nothing in the process is missed.

"Medical safety is paramount and this ensures the best quality of care for the patients," said Ladd.

NBHC Nurse Corps Officer Receives USO Award

By Kathy MacKnight, Naval Health
Clinic New England Public Affairs

NEW YORK - Lt. Cmdr. Shari D. Hulbert, Nurse Corps, was honored by the USO of Metropolitan New York during their 41st Annual Woman of the Year Luncheon on April 17, in New York City.

Hulbert was one of five recipients of the Military Leadership Award and was cited for her outstanding leadership efforts during her deployment as an Individual Augmentee to Mazar-e-Sharif Afghanistan. Hulbert is a Family Nurse Practitioner, currently serving at the Naval Branch Health Clinic in Groton, Connecticut. From May to October 2006, she was forward deployed to Afghanistan where she served Senior Medical Mentor on a Navy Embedded Training Team (ETT) for the Afghanistan National Army (ANA). As the senior medical officer she was responsible for fulfilling the Chief of Naval Operation's high priority "blue to green" mission and oversaw all aspects of reestablishing ANA health care system.

An astute clinician and skilled leader, she quickly earned the respect of her ANA counterparts as their medical mentor. In this role, Hulbert was able to mentor, coach and instruct an ANA O-6 physician and his staff of over thirty medical professional personnel in both administrative and medical matters culminating in the ANA medical staff's capability to perform medical

services and health care support functions independently.

She patiently advised and encouraged the ANA Medical officers and soldiers on the proper management of their Troop Medical Clinic, spearheaded the first ANA medical records-keeping system (translated into Dari) and enabled the ANA to support and sustain their own forces. Hulbert also organized the ANA's first-ever mass immunization and not only successfully inoculated over 900 ANA soldiers but also established a tracking system that will allow the ANA to record and monitor future immunization requirements.

Not wanting her clinic skills to diminish, she frequently volunteered to go on humanitarian missions to provide health care to local nationals. One such mission resulted in her being awarded the Army Commendation Medal and called out by-name to be "coined" for humanitarian care of a child with second and third degree burns to more than 30% of his body.

Additionally, Hulbert played a key role in developing the ANA medical staff in other areas such as logistics and facilities planning. Even though she had no formal logistics training, she willingly served as the Manager for the Ministry of Defense warehouse where she oversaw 5 ANA personnel. In this role, she was responsible for the receipt, inventory and distribution of medical equipment required to support a new \$6 million health clinic. Due to her astute program management and at great personal risk, she exposed a \$257,000 fraud, waste and abuse corruption case of misappropriated and stolen hospital equipment. This prompted the first-ever joint Inspector General investigation between ANA and American forces.

Serving as the Medical Advisor to the Army Engineering Corps, Hulbert helped develop the requirements for a new Ministry of Defense 50-bed hospital. Relying on past



U.S. Navy photo provided by Kathy MacKnight

experiences in a variety of clinical settings and fully understanding the requirements of clinical work flow, she was instrumental in identifying 16 critical design flaws requiring the contractor to redesign and reconstruct the affected areas.

Hulbert was also chosen as the Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. forces in the North where she interfaced with reporters from around the globe representing the American military. In this role she was able to serve as an ambassador to the American forces and coordinated clothing drops to 50 orphaned children through donations sent from many military members and civilians. She also organized and coordinated a school drop to 1,600 children.

Hulbert's dedication and leadership never wavered as she was continually faced with new challenges and performed above and beyond all expectations. A tireless worker, she diligently worked to establish the Afghanistan's military healthcare system as well as providing direct health care services local nationals. Her efforts have made a lasting impacting on the lives of many Afghans and brought great honor to the American military.



Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
2300 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20372-5300

Public Affairs Office
Phone: 202-762-3221
Fax: 202-762-1705